Chris Hansen

Christopher Edward Hansen (born September 13, 1959)[1] is an American television journalist. He is known for his work on *Dateline NBC*, in particular the former segment *To Catch a Predator*, which revolved around catching potential Internet sex predators using a sting operation. He also hosts *Killer Instinct* on Investigation Discovery, which documents homicide investigations.[2] In September 2016, he became the new host of the syndicated show *Crime Watch Daily*.[3]

Chris Hansen

Hansen in 2019

Born	Christopher Edward Hansen September 13, 1959 Chicago, Illinois, United States[1]
Alma mater	Michigan State University
Occupation	Television personality News reporter
Years active	1981–present
Known for	*To Catch a Predator* *Dateline NBC* *Killer Instinct* *Crime Watch Daily*
Spouse(s)	Mary Joan Hansen
Children	2

Contents

Early life and education

Career with NBC (1981–2013)

Dateline NBC

To Catch a Predator

Killer Instinct

Appearances

Post-NBC projects

Hansen vs. Predator

Crime Watch Daily

Have a Seat with Chris Hansen

Personal life

Awards

References

Further reading

External links

Early life and education

Hansen was born on September 13, 1959 in Chicago, Illinois.[1] Hansen grew up in the northern Detroit suburbs of West Bloomfield and Birmingham. Hansen attended Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.[4] In an interview with the *Lansing City Pulse*, Hansen has said that watching the FBI and police investigate the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa when he was fourteen inspired him to want to become a journalist.[5] He graduated from Michigan State University College of Communication Arts and Sciences in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in telecommunications.[6][5]

Career with NBC (1981–2013)

He became a reporter for Lansing NBC affiliate WILX in 1981 during his senior year at Michigan State University.[6][5] He then reported for WFLA in Tampa, various radio stations and newspapers in Michigan, WXYZ in Detroit, and WDIV as an investigative reporter and anchor from 1988.[6] In May 1993, Hansen joined NBC News as a correspondent for the short-lived news magazine *Now with Tom Brokaw and Katie Couric*.[6]

Dateline NBC

Hansen's notable work for *Dateline* includes coverage of the Columbine massacre, the Oklahoma City terrorist attack, the Unabomber and the TWA Flight 800 disaster; as well as investigative reports on Indian child slave labor and on counterfeit prescription drug sales in China. Hansen was responsible for most of *Dateline's* coverage of the September 11 attacks, as well as stories on terrorist groups and the operations of Al-Qaeda. He also exposed how a group linked to Osama Bin Laden had tried to buy missiles and nuclear weapons components, and he also worked on an exclusive report detailing an attempted 1994 terrorist attack in France. His series on the lack of security at airports resulted in the FAA opening an investigation and ultimately revising its policies.[6]

To Catch a Predator

In conjunction with the website Perverted-Justice, Hansen hosted a series of *Dateline NBC* reports under the title *To Catch a Predator*. Volunteers from Perverted-Justice impersonated underage people (usually 13–15) in chat rooms online and agreed to meet with adults for sex.[7][8] The meeting places were "sting houses", where camera crews from NBC, and in later episodes local police, awaited the potential sexual predator.[9]

Capitalizing on the success of Hansen and his *Predator* investigations, *Dateline NBC* created three Tuesday night spin-offs of its original concept; Hansen hosted *To Catch a Con Man* and *To Catch an I.D. Thief*.[6] In March 2007, Hansen's book, *To Catch a Predator: Protecting Your Kids from Online Enemies Already in Your Home*, was released in the American market.[10]

Killer Instinct

In February 2015, Hansen announced that he would be the host of a new show on Investigation Discovery to be titled *Killer Instinct* that chronicled homicide cases. The show's initial 10-episode season premiered on August 17, 2015.[11]

Appearances

Hansen has appeared on such television programs as *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *The Adam Carolla Show*, *Today*, *Scarborough Country*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Rise Guys Morning Show*, *The Don and Mike Show*, *The Opie and Anthony Radio Show*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, *Glenn Beck Program*, and *Diggnation*.

On January 9, 2007, Hansen appeared on the BET news series *American Gangster*. The special, which was hosted by actor Ving Rhames, focused on Detroit drug lords, the Chambers Brothers gang. Hansen gave insight into the lives of the brothers based on the reporting he had done on them in the 1980s and

1990s as a reporter for ABC affiliate WXYZ (Channel 7) and NBC affiliate WDIV (Channel 4). On January 13, 2008, he attended the NBC Golden Globes Winners Special which was poorly attended by the nominees due to the 2007–2008 Writers Guild of America strike.[12]

Post-NBC projects

Hansen vs. Predator

In 2015, Hansen announced plans to release a new independent television show called *Hansen vs. Predator*, a spin-off of his original show *To Catch a Predator.* The program was intended to premiere online, crowdfunded via Kickstarter.[13] However, Hansen was unable to reach his $400,000 goal, only raising $89,000 by September 2016.[14] Hansen offered promotional memorabilia as part of the campaign that donors claimed to have never received, and he was arrested in January 2019 for paying for $13,000 worth of promotional items with a bad check.[15] After Hansen was unable to reach his Kickstarter goal broadcast rights were sold, with *Hansen vs. Predator* becoming a recurring segment on *Crime Watch Daily*.[16]

Crime Watch Daily

On August 22, 2016, it was announced that Hansen would become the new host of the syndicated news program *Crime Watch Daily* beginning with its second-season premiere on September 12.[17] Hansen anchors the program from New York City, but it will maintain its Los Angeles-based newsroom. The second season also saw the premiere of *Hansen vs. Predator*, a revival of his previous *To Catch a Predator* series. Hansen's entry brought further ratings gains to the program, with household ratings increasing by 20% to 1.0, and a 23% gain among women 18–34. On January 4, 2017, *Crime Watch Daily* was renewed for a third season.[18][17] The show ended its run in June 2018.[19] Chris Hansen debuted the first episode of *Hansen vs Predator* on Monday, September 12, 2016, on *Crime Watch Daily*.[3]

Have a Seat with Chris Hansen

On October 9, 2019, Hansen started a YouTube channel under the name *Have a Seat with Chris Hansen*, wherein he uploads weekly podcasts tackling different topics and interviews with special guests.[20] In 2019, this channel investigated claims of pedophilia and grooming against YouTuber Onision.[21] In January 2020, Hansen visited Onision's home in an attempt to interview him. Onision called the police on Hansen, though the police did not take action against him.[22] Onision has also filed a lawsuit against Hansen, which is scheduled to take place on January 24, 2020.[23][24]

Personal life

He is married to his wife Mary Joan and has two sons. It was reported that in June 2018, Mary Joan filed for divorce after nearly 30 years of marriage.[25] The family resides in Connecticut. He also had an apartment in New York City. However, it was reported that he was evicted in January for failing to pay rent, with it being shown the last time Hansen paid rent was in August 2018.[6]

In January 2019, Hansen was charged with larceny after a check bounced with a vendor who delivered promotional items.[26] Hansen turned himself in to police in Connecticut on January 14, 2019, for allegedly bouncing checks for nearly $13,000 worth of promotional materials, according to Stamford

Police.[27] The charges were later dropped.[28]

Awards

Hansen has received eight Emmy Awards, four Edward R. Murrow Awards, three Clarion awards, the Overseas Press Club award, an IRE, the National Press Club award, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists Award; as well as awards for excellence from the Associated Press and United Press International.[29]

References

1. Hansen, Chris (May 6, 2015). "An Interview with Chris Hansen". *The Anthony Cumia Show* (Interview). Interviewed by Anthony Cumia.
2. "MSU grad Chris Hansen returns with 'Killer Instinct' " (https://www.freep.com/story/entertainment/television/2015/08/17/chris-hansen-killer-instinct/31843037/). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180711023612/https://www.freep.com/story/entertainment/television/2015/08/17/chris-hansen-killer-instinct/31843037/) from the original on 2018-07-11. Retrieved 2019-05-19.MSU grad Chris Hansen returns with 'Killer Instinct' (http://www.freep.com/story/entertainment/television/2015/08/17/chris-hansen-killer-instinct/31843037/) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150920031521/http://www.freep.com/story/entertainment/television/2015/08/17/chris-hansen-killer-instinct/31843037/) 2015-09-20 at the Wayback Machine *Detroit Free Press*, August 17, 2015
3. " 'Take a seat' – Chris Hansen is back!" (http://crimewatchdaily.com/2016/09/09/take-a-seat-chris-hansen-is-back/). *Crime Watch Daily*. September 9, 2016. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160912073903/http://crimewatchdaily.com/2016/09/09/take-a-seat-chris-hansen-is-back/) from the original on September 12, 2016. Retrieved September 10, 2016.
4. Hansen, Chris (April 20, 2010). "America Now: City of Heartbreak and Hope" (http://www.nbcnews.com/id/36665950). NBC News. Retrieved October 8, 2012.
5. McNamara, Neal (April 15, 2009). "News maker Chris Hansen" (https://web.archive.org/web/20120226233751/http://www.lansingcitypulse.com/lansing/article-2879-news-maker-chris-hansen.html). *Lansing City Pulse*. Archived from the original (http://www.lansingcitypulse.com/lansing/article-2879-news-maker-chris-hansen.html) on February 26, 2012. Retrieved June 12, 2010.
6. "Chris Hansen: Correspondent, "Dateline NBC" " (http://www.nbcnews.com/id/3949042). NBC News. Retrieved June 12, 2010.
7. Hansen, Chris (October 26, 2006). "They're still showing up" (http://www.nbcnews.com/id/14824427). NBC News. Retrieved October 8, 2012.
8. Hansen, Chris (October 4, 2011). "Prominent men caught in Petaluma sting" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110820023037/http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15130487/ns/dateline_nbc/t/prominent-men-caught-petaluma-sting#.Tmeiw2NHsp4). MSNBC. Archived from the original (http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15130487/ns/dateline_nbc/t/prominent-men-caught-petaluma-sting/#.Tmeiw2NHsp4) on August 20, 2011. Retrieved September 7, 2011.
9. Salkin, Allen (December 13, 2006). "Web Site Hunts Pedophiles, and TV Goes Along" (https://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/13/technology/13justice.html). *The New York Times*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20090425122639/http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/13/technology/13justice.html) from the original on April 25, 2009. Retrieved June 12, 2010.
10. Profile (http://hansenvpredator.com/) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160112225357/http://www.hansenvpredator.com/) 2016-01-12 at the Wayback Machine, hansenvpredator.com; accessed July 27, 2015.

11. "Killer Instinct with Chris Hansen" (http://www.tvguide.com/tvshows/killer-instinct-with-chris-hansen/episodes/754968/). *TVGuide.com*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160307062048/http://www.tvguide.com/tvshows/killer-instinct-with-chris-hansen/episodes/754968/) from the original on 2016-03-07. Retrieved 2016-02-21.
12. Willow, Molly. "Recitation of honorees so lame it hurt", Features — Life & Arts; pg. 1D, *The Columbus Dispatch*, January 14, 2008.
13. Blistein, Jon (April 14, 2015). "Chris Hansen Wants You to Fund New 'To Catch a Predator' " (https://www.rollingstone.com/tv/news/chris-hansen-wants-you-to-fund-new-to-catch-a-predator-20150414). *Rolling Stone*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150814172723/http://www.rollingstone.com/tv/news/chris-hansen-wants-you-to-fund-new-to-catch-a-predator-20150414) from the original on August 14, 2015. Retrieved August 5, 2015.
14. Hansen, Chris (September 9, 2016). "Hansen vs. Predator" (https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1606694156/hansen-vs-predator). *Kickstarter*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20191130001135/https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1606694156/hansen-vs-predator) from the original on November 30, 2019. Retrieved 2019-11-30.
15. Dillon, Nancy. " 'To Catch a Predator' star Chris Hansen's arrest draws out history of financial woes and complaints" (https://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny-news-chris-hansen-legal-woes-20190118-story.html). *nydailynews.com*. Retrieved 2019-11-30.
16. "The Return of 'To Catch a Predator' " (https://www.themarshallproject.org/2017/01/22/the-return-of-to-catch-a-predator). *The Marshall Project*. 2017-01-23. Retrieved 2019-11-30.
17. "Chris Hansen Will Be Catching Predators On 'Crime Watch Daily' " (http://deadline.com/2016/08/chris-hansen-crime-watch-daily-host-1201806765/). *Deadline.com*. 22 August 2016. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160825031627/http://deadline.com/2016/08/chris-hansen-crime-watch-daily-host-1201806765/) from the original on 25 August 2016. Retrieved 31 August 2016.
18. "Exclusive: 'Crime Watch Daily' Renewed for Season 3" (http://www.broadcastingcable.com/news/distribution/exclusive-crime-watch-daily-renewed-season-3/162185). *Broadcasting & Cable*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170118230121/http://www.broadcastingcable.com/news/distribution/exclusive-crime-watch-daily-renewed-season-3/162185) from the original on 18 January 2017. Retrieved 18 January 2017.
19. https://www.broadcastingcable.com/news/syndication-ratings-soccer-golf-drives-down-shows Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180628015544/https://www.broadcastingcable.com/news/syndication-ratings-soccer-golf-drives-down-shows) 2018-06-28 at the Wayback Machine Crime Watch Daily ending is run after three years on the air per Broadcasting and cable
20. "Have A Seat With Chris Hansen" (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgKTJAN-IrVyX-jIJ5INEhA/). *YouTube*. Retrieved 2019-11-20.
21. EST, Steven Asarch On 11/27/19 at 10:33 AM (2019-11-27). "Onision has been banned from Patreon and has been posting strange videos" (https://www.newsweek.com/who-onision-youtube-banned-patreon-doxxing-predator-1474416). *Newsweek*. Retrieved 2019-11-28.
22. Dodgson, Lindsay. "A creator who has become YouTube's supervillain called 911 when reporter Chris Hansen knocked on his door to ask him about accusations of grooming underage fans" (https://www.insider.com/onision-called-911-when-chris-hansen-knocked-on-his-door-2020-1). *Insider*. Retrieved 2020-01-17.
23. "Washington Courts - Search Case Records" (https://dw.courts.wa.gov/?fa=home.fmcdDetail&casenumber=XZ625515A&CRT_ITL_NU=PD1&date=2020-01-24&time=13:30). *dw.courts.wa.gov*. Retrieved 2020-01-17.
24. EST, Steven Asarch On 1/16/20 at 2:04 PM (2020-01-16). "Chris Hansen and Repzion have been sued in civil court by Onision" (https://www.newsweek.com/onision-youtube-sues-chris-hansen-repzion-civil-court-lawsuit-1482611). *Newsweek*. Retrieved 2020-01-17.

25. Hohman, Maura. "To Catch a Predator's Chris Hansen's Wife Filed for Divorce — and He's Being Evicted" (https://people.com/tv/to-catch-predator-chris-hansen-divorce-eviction/). *People*. People. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20190120043139/https://people.com/tv/to-catch-predator-chris-hansen-divorce-eviction/) from the original on 20 January 2019. Retrieved 19 January 2019.
26. Fearnow, Benjamin. "Chris Hansen Arrested: 'To Catch A Predator' Host Charged With Writing Bad Checks" (https://www.newsweek.com/chris-hansen-charged-arrested-bad-checks-fraud-catch-predator-stamford-1294156). *Newsweek*. Newsweek. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20190116213956/https://www.newsweek.com/chris-hansen-charged-arrested-bad-checks-fraud-catch-predator-stamford-1294156) from the original on 16 January 2019. Retrieved 16 January 2019.
27. "Chris Hansen, former "To Catch a Predator" TV host, arrested over bad checks, police say" (https://www.cbsnews.com/news/chris-hansen-former-to-catch-a-predator-tv-host-arrested-over-bad-checks-police-say/). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20190502033744/https://www.cbsnews.com/news/chris-hansen-former-to-catch-a-predator-tv-host-arrested-over-bad-checks-police-say/) from the original on 2019-05-02. Retrieved 2019-05-19.
28. " 'To Catch a Predator' host Chris Hansen has bounced check charge dropped" (https://wtop.com/tv/2019/01/to-catch-a-predator-host-chris-hansen-has-bounced-check-charge-dropped/). 2019-01-24. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20190428210917/https://wtop.com/tv/2019/01/to-catch-a-predator-host-chris-hansen-has-bounced-check-charge-dropped/) from the original on 2019-04-28. Retrieved 2019-05-19.
29. "Chris Hansen: Correspondent, "Dateline NBC" " (http://www.nbcnews.com/id/3949042). NBC News. Retrieved 2012-10-08.

Further reading

- Hansen, C. (2007) *To Catch a Predator: Protecting Your Kids From Online Enemies Already in your Home* (http://worldcatlibraries.org/oclc/85783275&referer=brief_results), New York City: Dutton

External links

- Chris Hansen (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1938954/) on IMDb
- Hansen's "Predator" blog (https://web.archive.org/web/20060130130939/http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10912603/)
- Hansen's "ID Thief" blog (https://web.archive.org/web/20070401000301/http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17805134/)
- Hansen's "Con Man" blog (https://web.archive.org/web/20070324001555/http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17697615/)
- The Hansen Files website (http://hansenfiles.com/)
- Chris Hansen (https://twitter.com/ChrisHansen) on Twitter

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Chris_Hansen&oldid=936962800"

This page was last edited on 22 January 2020, at 02:42 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.